The Pyongyang Times

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TELEGRAM

Choi Yong Kun, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a message from Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Sultan of the State of Kuwait in reply to his message of greetings sent on the occasion of the national day of Kuwait.

Korean Government Delegation Leaves for Damascus

A delegation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea left here for Damascus on March 1 by plane to attend the celebrations of the fourth anniversary of the Syrian revolution at the invitation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The delegation is led by Hong Dong Chol, director of a bureau under the Cabinet.

The Korean women, freed from all manner of social fetters, are taking an active part in state and social affairs as the masters of the country.

Today, when another high tide is rising on all fronts of socialist construction, our women are vigorously forging ahead shoulder to shoulder with men under the motto "With hammer or sickle in one hand and rifle in the other".

Photo shows Red Worker-Peasant militiawomen of the enterprise to which Comrade Kim Yon Sik belongs.

Unshakable Resolve

Press Conference at SVNFL Permanent Mission in Korea

A Press Conference of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation in Pyongyang held a press conference on March 2 in connection with the February 28 statement of the SVNFL Central Committee.

Speaking on that occasion, Bui Ngoc Ho, Chief of the Permanent Mission, said that the statement exposed the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression, their barbarous war crimes and the real nature of their "peace" hoax and once again declared the firm stand and determination of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and the South Vietnamese people to fight till the final victory.

The American imperialists are wantonly infringing upon the sovereignty and independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and have taken a step further in their war escalation by shelling recently the areas of North Vietnam from their position south of the Demilitarized Zone and from their vessels of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, he pointed out. And he went on:

"The statement manifested the

(Continued on Page 2)

Continued War Escalation Hastens U.S. Doom

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT

The D.P.R.K. Foreign Ministry issued a statement on March 3 in support of the statements issued respectively by the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in connection with another "war escalation" by the Americans in Vietnam.

Follows the full text of the statement:

On February 28 and March 1 the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam respectively issued statements pungently denouncing the new scheme of the U.S. imperialists for "war escalation" and once again manifesting the firm resolve of the entire Vietnamese people to fight on unflinchingly till they win the final victory, completely driving the U.S. imperialist aggressors out of their country.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the entire Korean people wholeheartedly support the just stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and the unshakable resolve of the Vietnamese people as manifested in the statements.

Today the U.S. imperialists are stubbornly expanding the aggressive war in Vietnam and gravely menacing peace in Asia and the rest of the world behind the smokescreen of an unceasing "peace negotiations" bombast.

Having failed in their aggressive plan for subjugating South Vietnam through a "special war" by use of the puppet troops, the U.S. imperialists have dragooned into South Vietnam 410,000 odd U.S. troops and 55,000 odd satellite troops in the past two years or so, and are seeking to intensify the barbarous scorched-earth war of "killing all, destroying all and burning all" by hurling hundreds of thousands of more aggressive troops.

Employing every savage means of war such as napalm bombs, toxic chemicals and poison gas, infringing upon international law and the elementary norms of human morality, U.S. imperialism and its lackeys are committing such towering crimes as mercilessly killing peaceable inhabitants, destroying villages and devastating fields through numerous "assault operations" in various parts of South Vietnam and bombing by B-52 aircraft.

In their vicious attempt to recover from their repeated setbacks in South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists are further intensifying the war of destruction against North Vietnam in wanton violation of the sovereignty and independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

They have recently taken new "war escalation" steps, shelling and bombarding populated areas of North Vietnam on an extensive scale from the ground and sea with their artillery units and warships based in South Vietnam and dropping mines into many rivers and canels.

And U.S. war maniacs are ever more frantically trying to escalate the Vietnam war of aggression and making an outcry for bombing many more targets including Hanoi, the D.R.V. capital, and Haiphong.

The U.S. imperialists are stepping up the aggressive war in Laos and committing ceaseless provocative acts against the Cambodian people in order to spread the flames of war to the whole of Indo-China.

All these facts clearly show that the "peace negotiations" the U.S. imperialists have been harping on are nothing but a deceptive scheme to camouflage their war escalation manoeuvre.

The U.S. imperialists have fully laid bare their aggressive nature by defying a number of humanitarian steps for suspending military attacks put forward by the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the just stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the powerful demands of the world's people for the definite and unconditional cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam and the discontinuance of the aggression in South Vietnam and for the recognition of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

With no desperate scheme for war escalation can the U.S. aggressors bring to their knees the

(Continued on Page 2)

Korea Expresses Firm Solidarity with Cambodia

Spokesman of Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on February 27 issued a statement denouncing the recent, repeated large-scale acts of aggression against Cambodia by the U.S. imperialists.

Follows the text of the statement:

Recently the U.S. imperialists staged large-scale armed attacks against Cambodia.

On February 20 some two hundred U.S. troops and South Vietnamese puppet troops raided Daung village in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia, under cover of bombing and artillery fire. Again on February 21 the U.S. imperialists bombed this village with "B-52" heavy bombers.

Prior to this, on the 18th, a number of U.S. and South Vietnam puppet navy vessels intruded into the territorial waters of Cambodia and attacked Cambodian areas including hamlets in Kandal Province on the Mekong River, destroying houses and causing casualties.

This is a rabid infringement upon the sovereignty and national dignity of Cambodia and an extremely grave provocation wantonly violating the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China and the elementary norms of international law.

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia issued a communique on February 25 strongly denouncing the criminal acts of aggression and provocation against Cambodia by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the entire Korean people fully support the communique of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The hostile acts of U.S. imperialism against the Cambodian people are daily assuming serious proportions.

The recent massive attacks of the Cambodian territory by the U.S. ground, naval and air forces from ground, sea and air show that the U.S. imperialists are launching ever more organized, deliberate acts of provocation against Cambodia which maintains

(Continued on Page 2)

Koreans Never Tolerate Control by Imperialists

Anniversary of March 1st Popular Uprising Marked

A meeting was held on February 28 at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the March 1st Popular Uprising.

The uprising which started on March 1, 1919, with the anti-Japanese demonstration of 300,000 Seoul citizens swept over 200 cities and counties throughout the country till December that year.

The uprising was an eruption of the pent-up national resentment of our people against the Japanese militarist aggressors and a nation-wide patriotic struggle for the freedom and independence of the country against Japanese imperialism.

Baek Nam Un, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, delivered the report at the meeting.

He said: The masses who had risen up in the March 1 Popular Uprising, stubbornly fighting against the Japanese aggressors, went over to a mass revolt and in some regions they launched an armed struggle. The March 1 Popular Uprising demonstrated that the Korean people is a people who never tolerate the occupation and control by the imperialists and fight to the end for the country's liberation and independence.

Noting that the patriotic spirit and valorous stamina of the Korean people demonstrated in the March 1 Uprising were inherited and developed into fine fruit by the Korean Communists, he said: In the darkest days of the Japanese imperialist colonial rule the Korean Communists headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung took up arms in their hands and waged an arduous armed struggle for 15 years for the restoration of the fatherland and the liberation of the nation, bringing the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle of the Korean people onto a new, higher stage.

In North Korea, the historic cause for national independence and building a new country, the centuries-old desire of the Korean people, has been accomplished splendidly following the liberation of the country under the correct leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea which has inherited the glorious traditions of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The reporter said that the U.S. imperialists had turned South Korea into their full colony and military base since they entered South Korea in the name of "liberator," and were bent on provoking another aggressive war in Korea and even letting the Japanese militarists into South Korea.

The entire Korean people, the reporter stressed, are expressing burning national indignation at the criminal moves of the Japanese militarists who are making a comeback in South Korea to restore their old position under the aegis of U.S. imperialism and with the Pak Jung Hi clique as their fingermen.

Declaring that the grave situation in South Korea poses the liberation of South Korea and the reunification of the country as a national task which brooks no further delay, the reporter stated: "We will be prepared at all times for the struggle for smashing the aggressive machinations of the enemy, firmly defending the socialist gains and accomplishing the historic cause of the country's reunification by fortifying the revolutionary base in the northern part as firm as rock, upholding the resolution of the recent Conference of the Korean Workers' Party."

Present at the meeting were Comrades Ri Hyo Sun, Bak Jo'ng Ae, Ri Yo'ng Ho and functionaries of the Party, Government and public organizations.

On Vietnam

(Continued from Page 1)

heroic Vietnamese people who have risen up as one man with arms in their hands in the just struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation.

The Vietnamese people who have indomitable fighting spirit and patriotic tradition are dealing one heavy blow after another to the aggressors and winning great victories.

The further the U.S. imperialists escalate the war, the more ignominious defeat they will sustain.

The Korean people who are standing foursquare behind the fraternal Vietnamese people will continue to do everything in their power to render active support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnam question should be solved by the Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the four-point position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the programme of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the sole, true representative of the South Vietnamese people.

U.S. imperialism must stop its bombing of North Vietnam and other acts of war definitely and unconditionally and quit South Vietnam at once, taking all its troops and those of its satellite countries.

If the U.S. imperialists persist in their wanton designs to escalate the war of aggression in Vietnam, defying the unanimous aspiration of the world's peace-loving people, it will only result in further hastening their doom.

The heroic Vietnamese people who are enjoying the powerful support and encouragement of the Korean people and the world's people will certainly win the final victory.

Korean Lawyer Leaves for Vietnam

Baek Il Gon, Secretary of the Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association, left here on March 4 for Vietnam to join the Investigation Team of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers as a representative of the KDLA.

Korea-Yemen:

On Common Front of Anti-Imperialism

The overthrow of feudal despotism and the establishment of the Republican Government in Yemen were an event of epochal significance not only in the life of the Yemeni people but also in promoting the cause of national liberation and social progress on the Arab peninsula.

The Yemeni Arab Republic has undergone a radical change in all fields of its internal life thanks to a series of measures taken by the Government such as the land reform, the drawing-up of the plan for agricultural development and the establishment of a national bank with a view to liquidating the backwardness of the colonial, feudal system and building the national economy.

Irrigation facilities and arable land have been expanded markedly, new state-run farms set up and agricultural production increased.

In the field of national industry, an aluminium plant has gone into operation and a printing factory for cotton fabrics is under construction.

At present, some 1,000 schools are functioning in this country which had only three primary schools under the reign of the Royalists.

All these achievements scored by the Yemeni people are the valuable fruits of their arduous struggle against the U.S. and British imperialists, as well as the Arab reactionaries and the Royalists at home who are in league with the former.

Holding fast to its anti-imperialist position in accordance with its political programme on "establishing friendly relations with all countries that respect independence" and "resisting the interference by imperialism and other foreign forces," the Yemeni Arab Republic is firmly defending national independence and fighting for the liberation of southern Yemen.

The Korean people fully support this just position of the Yemeni Arab Republic and extend firm solidarity to its struggle.

The relations of friendship and co-operation between the peoples of Korea and Yemen have been strengthened and developed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries on March 9, 1963.

We in North Korea, who hold dear their friendly ties with the Yemeni people, are convinced that these relations will continue to develop.

Cambodia

(Continued from Page 1)

a firm position on the anti-imperialist front.

The U.S. imperialists' piratic invasion of Cambodia constitutes an important part of their policies of aggression and war toward Asia.

Having sustained one serious setback after another in all parts of South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists are frenziedly trying to further aggravate tension in this area and spread the flames of war to the whole of Indo-China—Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

But this is a foolish act of those in a quandary digging their own graves.

The actions of the U.S. imperialists for aerial attacks and ray bare all the more clearly their despicable aggressive nature before the world.

With whatever intervention, pressure and military provocation can the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys impede the people's determination of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia confidently advancing along the road of independent development or block the road of their advancement.

The valiant struggle of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia against the intervention, aggression and intervention by the U.S. imperialists, their South Vietnamese puppets and Thai reactionaries is a fight for safeguarding independence and sovereignty and a just struggle for peace in Asia and the world.

The righteous struggle of the Cambodian people against the U.S. imperialist aggression is actively supported by the progressive people of the world.

The Korean people express firm solidarity with the Cambodian people in their struggle for defending independence, neutrality, peace, territorial integrity and the country's sovereignty, repulsing all the aggressive provocations of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

The U.S. imperialists and their lackeys must stop at once their aggressive acts against the Cambodian people.

If the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys act recklessly against Cambodia, defying the strong denunciation of the Cambodian people and the world's people, they will be held responsible for the serious consequences arising therefrom.

Press Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

unshakable resolve of the 14 million South Vietnamese people not to lay down their arms in any circumstance so long as there remains even the shadow of a single Yankee on their territory.

"The statement called upon all the peace- and justice-loving governments and peoples of various countries and the progressive organizations and public figures throughout the world to render every possible active assistance to the South Vietnamese people in their just struggle," he emphasized in conclusion.

Recognize Free Visit to Homeland

Korean residents in Japan, calling at the Japanese authorities concerned from day to day, are carrying on a vigorous campaign for the realization of free visit to their homeland — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Recently, representatives of Korean residents living at Itabashi, Toshima and Nerima wards in Tokyo and in Chiba and Saitama Prefectures in the Kanto districts went to the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice several days in succession and strongly asked for the immediate issue of their re-entry permits so that they could visit their own country.

Korean residents in other parts of Japan from Hokkaido in the northern extremity to Kyushu in the southern tip also called at local immigration service divisions and asked them to comply with their just demand at once.

The Japanese government is now preventing the travel of Korean nationals in Japan to and from their homeland, relating this matter, an urgent humanitarian question, to its political ends. Korean residents, sternly brand such attitude of the Japanese government as an unjust one ignoring basic human rights and international practice.

The Japanese people and broad world public opinion holding justice and humanitarianism in respect are also expressing indignation at this unreasonable action of the Japanese authorities.

The 600,000 Korean nationals in Japan are those who, as the victims of the Japanese imperialist colonial policy, were forcibly taken to Japan and subjected to national humiliation and hardships or their sons and daughters.

The Japanese government should assume the legal and moral responsibility for treating Korean residents in Japan properly as foreigners and fully recognizing their freedom to visit their homeland.

Photo: Koreans in Japan are demanding that the Japanese authorities recognize their free visit to their country.

Victory Belongs to Vietnamese People

These days the American aggressors are bringing the war to a more serious stage by taking new, extremely grave actions for the "escalation of the war" in North and South Vietnam.

The criminal scorched-earth war of "killing all, destroying all and burning all" being conducted desperately in different parts of North and South Vietnam has assumed a new aspect in its scale and in the ways and means employed in it.

Their naval bombardment and bombing of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam not only have grown rapidly in their intensity and scope but also the shelling of North Vietnam from the areas south of the Demilitarized Zone has begun, which means the starting of an actual ground war against the North.

Thus, the American imperialists are now rushing headlong towards a dangerous, new stage in the expansion of the Vietnam war.

This is a reply to the humanitarian steps taken on many occasions by the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation for stopping the military attacks and to the expression of goodwill by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; it is Johnson's official answer to the strong demand of the people of the whole world including the American people for the permanent and unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, the withdrawal of the troops of the U.S. and its satellites from South Vietnam, the recognition of the SVNFL and for the restoration of peace in Vietnam.

Obviously, Johnson believes that he will be able to subdue the Vietnamese people and get the world's people to acknowledge their aggression in Vietnam, by further escalating the war, spreading destruction and killing more people.

This is really foolish. But it should not be overlooked that all these are Johnson's deliberate actions challenging the Vietnamese people as well as the socialist camp and the peace-loving people all over the world.

In connection with the haughty action of the American imperialists, the SVNFL Central Committee and the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam issued respectively on February 28 and March 1 statements vehemently denouncing the new escalation of the war and expressing once again the firm determination of the entire Vietnamese people resolutely to fight the enemy until they drive out the last man of the U.S. aggressors from their territory and win final victory.

With no desperate escalation of the war will the Yankee imperialists be able to break the inflexible determination and the fighting spirit of the heroic Vietnamese people.

In the course of 10 years of aggressive war against the Vietnamese people, the political and moral defeat of the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam has become so clear that the ruling circles in Washington cannot deny it.

Moreover, the course of the war in the recent one year or two in which the United States has taken a direct part by bringing in its large contingents shows clearly that the United States has no chance of military victory.

Johnson and his colleagues refuse to recognize this cold fact. And they cling to the escalation of the war like a losing gambler who increases his stakes and thereby ruins his fortune. American imperialism also refuses to see that the further it escalates the war, the greater "escalation" of the political, economic and military assistance rendered to Vietnam by the world camp will inevitably ensue.

The final defeat of the United States in Vietnam is inevitable.

The Yankees themselves are now busy setting in motion the great factor that sharply accelerates this process.

The heroic Vietnamese people who command the powerful support and encouragement of the peoples throughout the world including the Koreans are sure to win final victory.

Agricultural workers in the Syrian Arab Republic arrive with great enthusiasm at the festival of land distribution

Syria Is Sure to Win Her Cause

The Syrian people are now celebrating the fourth anniversary of the victory of the revolution in the midst of struggle for opposing the aggressive moves of the U.S.-British imperialists and the Israeli expansionists, their lackeys, and for defending the country's independence and the dignity of the nation.

The victory of the revolution in Syria on March 8, 1963 constituted a new stage expediting progress in the struggle of the Syrian people for the consolidation of their national independence and prosperity.

Since February, 1966, in particular, the Syrian Government has been mobilizing the entire people confidently in the struggle for building a new society by their own efforts, offering a stubborn resistance to imperialist aggression.

The Syrian Government has taken a series of steps for nationalizing the industrial companies and commercial firms owned by foreign monopoly capitalists and reactionaries at home, thus seizing key branches of the national economy.

Moreover, under the "Land Reform Law," the Syrian Government has confiscated more than one million hectares of land belonging to the landlords and distributed most of it to the tillers.

The U.S. imperialists constantly egged the Israeli expansionists on to the adventurous provocations against Syria and went so far as to plot against the Syrian Government last September.

They, however, failed to bring the Syrian people to their knees who were filled with a firm determination to resist imperialist aggression to the last and defend national independence.

The measures taken last December for the confiscation of the property of the "Iraqi Petroleum Company" belonging to the U.S. and British petroleum monopolies and the closure of its pipeline were a resolute answer of the Syrian people to the arbitrary pressure by the imperialists and an exercise of their legal rights.

The Syrian Government is now fully prepared against every possible aggression from outside and the entire Syrian people have risen up as one man in response to the government measures, evincing their firm resolve to safeguard their country from the enemy's encroachment.

Today the Arab people and the progressive people the world over stand on the side of the Syrian people who have risen up for their just cause.

The Korean people who stand shoulder to shoulder with the Syrian people on an anti-imperialist united front warmly celebrate the Syrian people on their red-letter day and extend militant solidarity with the Syrian people in their sacred struggle for foiling the manoeuvrings carried out by the Arab reactionaries under the wirepulling of the U.S.-British imperialists, for defending the country's sovereignty, national dignity and revolutionary gains, and for accomplishing the cause of the Arabs—the liberation of the Palestinian people.

ARAB LAWYERS PROTEST AGAINST SATO GOV'T

The ninth Conference of Lawyers of Arab Countries now being held in Cairo sent a telegram to Japanese Premier Sato on March 1, protesting against the criminal scheme of the Japanese authorities to hand over to the South Korean puppet clique Kim Dong Hui, a South Korean youth who had taken refuge in Japan, refusing to be taken to South Vietnam, according to a report from Cairo.

The telegram wrote that the attendants of the Conference were indignant at the Sato group for illegally detaining Kim Dong Hui who had requested the Japanese government to grant him political asylum and send him to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for scheming at present to send him over to the South Koreas authorities.

Denouncing the scheme of the Japanese authorities as a flagrant violation of international law and international practice, the telegram said that Kim Dong Hui's refusal to go to South Vietnam is in itself valorous support to the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people and fully accords with the aspiration of the world peace-loving people.

(KCNA)

The Independence Monument in the heart of Usumbura, capital of Burundi

Burundi People's Just Struggle

Burundi is a country which, lying in the inland of Central Africa, is small yet famous for her picturesque scenery. But it is not simply because of her natural beauty that an increasing number of the world's progressive people are focusing their attention on this country. Above all, it is because the valiant people of Burundi are making vigorous advances in building a new life upholding the banner of independence against imperialism.

The people of Burundi had long fought the Belgian colonialists for the country's liberation, and won their national independence on July 1, 1962. And on November 28 last year, they overthrew the monarchy and proclaimed the foundation of the Republic of Burundi.

This was another victory of the Burundi people in their struggle for the consolidation of national independence.

While frustrating the sinister schemes of the colonialists, old and new, the people of Burundi are working energetically to implement various significant measures for the independent development of their country. They are also taking an active part in the struggle to accomplish the common cause for the complete liberation of Africa.

The present government of Burundi which has defined an independent foreign policy is condemning the racialist regime of the Republic of South Africa and the Smith racialist regime, while opposing the imperialists' interference and subversion. It is also demanding the termination of the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam and the removal of all foreign military bases in South Vietnam.

The American imperialists have persistently schemed to sow the seed of discord among the races in Burundi so as to set them against each other and overthrow her government. In January, 1965, they went so far as to commit the criminal act of assassinating the then Burundi Premier.

The Burundi people, however, are vigorously advancing along the path of independent development under the banner of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism, foiling the machinations of the enemy.

We in North Korea extend our hearty sympathy and warm support to the Burundi people in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for the independent development of their country, and rejoice over their achievements as we do our own.

More Chollima Work-teams in Rural Areas

Two hundred and fifty-seven workteams of co-op farms and enterprises in the agricultural field have received the title of Chollima (winged horse) work-team recently.

They have achieved brilliant successes in implementing the tasks set forth in Premier Kim Il Sung's "Theses on the Socialist Agrarian Question in Our Country."

The Chollima work-team movement which is being waged under the motto "One for all, all for one!" has become a propelling power of the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions in the rural areas and plays an important role in boosting the output of agricultural produce.

In the past three years 3,259 rural work-teams have won the title of Chollima work-team.

There are now altogether 7,458 Chollima work-teams in the countryside, including 47 Double Chollima work-teams, embracing over 500,000 members.

MORE GOODS SUPPLIED TO COUNTRYSIDE

Stores in the rural districts of our country are being supplied with an increasing amount of goods to meet the growing demands of the co-op farmers who received bigger shares both in grain and cash last year than the previous year.

The supply of commodities to the countryside in January was double that in the corresponding month of last year.

The supply of goods to the countryside has been on a steady growth, particularly after the publication of Premier Kim Il Sung's "Theses on the Socialist Agrarian Question in Our Country" in February, 1964.

The supply of goods to the countryside grew 1.7 times last year as against 1963—fabrics 1.6 times, underwear 1.7 times, shoes 1.4 times, radios, watches, clocks and sewing machines 3.4 times. The variety of commodities increased 1.8 times.

The local demands for foodstuff and domestic utensils are being met in the main by local industry factories in each county.

Today a dense network of commodity supply has been established throughout the country including the mountainous areas.

This year 1.7 times as much goods as last year will be supplied to the countryside.

March 5 this year is the 21st anniversary of the enforcement of the land reform in North Korea. The land reform was the initial historic reform in the solution of the agrarian question in our country.

Korea had remained a backward colonial semi-feudal society until her liberation, as a result of the protracted colonial rule of Japanese imperialism.

In the pre-liberation year of 1944, 80 per cent of the entire population was the peasantry, the overwhelming majority of whom were semi-tenant and tenant farmers with insufficient or no land, and farm hands. On the other hand, the landlords comprising only 4 per cent of all the farming households held 58.2 per cent of the total arable land.

The feudal land ownership and relation of exploitation left the peasants in abject poverty and the absence of all rights and retarded the development of agricultural productive forces.

Therefore, shortly after the country's liberation the problem as to how to solve the agrarian question stood out as one of the vital problems determining the victory of revolution and affecting social progress.

Through the correct enforcement of the land reform alone was it possible to free the peasantry from feudal exploitation and oppression, consolidate the worker-peasant alliance, expedite the revolution and propel the rehabilitation and development of agriculture and other branches of the national economy.

In view of this our People's Government set about solving the land problem as the first and foremost task in the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution.

Nearly one month after its founding, the People's Government promulgated the Land Reform Law correctly reflecting the genuine interests of the peasants and the requirements of social development.

The Law was enacted on the principle of passing the land into the possession of the toiling peasants in conformity with the centuries-old thirst of the peasants for land and the specific socio-economic conditions of the country.

The Law provided for confiscating all land belonging to the Japanese, pro-Japanese elements and traitors to the nation, and all land of the landlords who owned more than five *jongbo* (one *jongbo* approximates to one hectare) of land and all land permanently offered to lease, and for distributing it among the landpoor and landless peasants free of charge.

The Law not only completely abolished the tenant system but prohibited the sale and mortgage of the distributed land and fixed the limit of individual land ownership at five *jongbo*, thereby preventing the resurgence of landlords. In order to carry out the land reform thoroughly in the shortest possible time, the People's Government conducted an energetic organizational and political work among the broad masses of the people. A rural committee with the poor peasants and the farm hands as the core was formed in each farm village of North Korea so that the peasants could play the main role in confiscating the landlords' land and distributing it among the tillers.

The People's Government dispatched large contingents of advanced workers in the urban areas to the countryside to render an active help to the peasants in their struggle for the fulfilment of the land reform.

Besides, in the course of effecting the land reform, the People's Government strengthened the united front of democratic political parties and public organizations and rallied broad democratic forces around it and thus made it possible to carry out the land reform through a nation-wide movement.

It was attributable to these measures that the land reform, though accompanied by an acute class struggle, was carried out to the hilt in a very short period of time.

Thanks to the enforcement of the land reform, 53 per cent of the total area under cultivation was confiscated and distributed free of charge to the farm hands and land-poor or landless peasants who held 70 per cent of the total farm households. The land reform ended forever the feudal landownership prevailing in our countryside.

The peasants in our country have become masters of the land and, together with the working class, become one of the main forces in the building of a democratic independent state.

Following the enforcement of the land reform, the people's state power has taken a series of important measures to improve the living standards of the peasantry and strengthen the economic ties between town and country.

All kinds of exacting levies imposed upon the peasants were abolished by law and the single agricultural tax-in-kind instituted.

The land reform heightened the enthusiasm of the peasants freed from the fetters of feudal production relations, and this brought about a sharp increase in agricultural production and a marked improvement in the livelihood of the peasantry.

The land reform was carried out in a thoroughgoing manner not only to eliminate the feudal elements but to curb the emergence and development of new capitalist elements.

This created a very favourable condition for carrying out agricultural co-operation after the war.

Twenty-one years have elapsed since the enforcement of the land reform.

In this period the co-operative transformation of agriculture was completed (1958). As a result, an end has been put once and for all to the source of exploitation in the countryside, the peasantry have come to live a new stable life under the system of agricultural co-operative economy and become a socialist working people.

The people's state power from the very inception of co-operation has given every possible assistance to the co-operative economy in materiel, money and labour.

Since Premier Kim Il Sung published the "Theses on the Socialist Agrarian Question in Our Country" the state support to the countryside has increased markedly and technical, cultural and ideological revolutions have been carried on more vigorously.

The countryside has taken on quite a new look.

The material and technical foundations of agricultural production have been consolidated considerably. In our country irrigation has in the main become universal. In consequence, irrigation channels crisscross the fields all over the country and a solid production basis capable of protecting crops from drought and flood has been built up.

Our countryside today has large numbers of farm machines including tractors whose number for 100 *jongbo* is 1.1 in terms of 15 h.p. units, and electricity has reached 98.2 per cent of the total farm villages.

In the recent five years, the amount of chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals supplied to the rural areas has grown 1.8 times and 1.7 times respectively, and technicians and specialists in the field of agriculture are being trained in great numbers.

Meanwhile, modern dwellings, production installations and cultural and public welfare facilities have been built at state expense for the peasants in accordance with the task set forth in the Premier's "Theses."

The complete abolition of the system of agricultural tax-in-kind has relieved our peasants from all burdens of taxation.

Free medical treatment has been enforced even in the out-of-the-way villages, and a nine-year technical compulsory education will be introduced in our country in April this year.

Our peasants who have followed a correct line in the solution of the agrarian question are now moving ahead confidently along the path illumined by the "Theses" with greater prospects before them.

Kim Yo'ng Jae

Tractors doing the land-levelling work

TO COUNTRYSIDE

With the approach of the farming season, preparations for farming are now in full swing in the countryside.

In our country, preparations for farming is a matter of concern not only of the peasants. Factories and other enterprises, cities and towns also do their bit in the preparations.

The Daesa Electric Machinery Plant produced more than 40 sets of large power equipment for the peasants last month. The plant also sent to the countryside able electricians and machine fitters to teach peasants how to install and operate farming machines.

In South Hwanghae Province, river-dyke and brackwater projects are under construction to protect 47,000 *jongbo* (One *jongbo* is about one hectare) of fields from flood and tidewater.

In North Korea, the State supplies farm machinery and equipment to co-operative farms and finances the construction of farming facilities. The readjustment of land is also conducted in the same way.

Recently the State alloted scores more of heavy tractors to the Anak County Farm Machine Station in this province to carry out the readjustment of plots.

The peasants receive other types of support. The Sŏngchon County Geological Surveying Team in South Pyŏn-an Province has built for the nearby Un-gok Co-operative Farm a laboratory which is equipped with apparatuses and reagents necessary for the analysis of soil.

This year more than 2,100 small and medium farm implements have already been delivered from Haeju to the countryside.

The Pyongyang citizens sent over 353,000 good-quality threshing machines, fodder-cutters and other farm machines and small and medium farm implements to the countryside last year. They sent more than 450,000 tons of materials for soil amelioration and manure to the suburban co-operative farms. They also gave a helping hand to the peasants in the busy farming seasons. This year they are to give more support to farm villages.

The flood of support the nation's industry and town give agriculture and village is flowing in manifold, steady streams into fields greeting the spring.

MORE AGRO-TECHNICIANS TRAINED

Three hundred sixteen farmers have recently passed the state qualification examinations for the agro-specialist, agronomist or agro-technician.

They had attended agronomist or agro-technician training courses.

Over 1,500 farmers have received these qualifications after finishing such courses in the past four years.

The training of rural technical personnel has been further stepped up since the publication of Premier Kim Il Sung's "Theses on the Socialist Agrarian Question in Our Country" in February, 1964.

The last three years witnessed a three-fold increase in the number of technical personnel.

This year the regular educational network will produce over 2,000 agronomists and specialists.

Now an average of 12 agronomists and agro-technicians are working at each co-op farm.

Nature-Remaking in a Province

Nature-remaking projects are progressing apace in the Amrok River area.

Brisk is the work for creating 30,000 *jongbo* (one *jongbo* is about one hectare) of reed fields in a brief span of time at its estuary.

This project started several years ago when Premier Kim Il Sung advanced the idea of reclaiming the saline land there for reed growing.

A vast nature-remaking work of linking small islets with dykes for damming off the sea water has made rapid progress since then and quantities of reeds have already been gathered in.

The reed is processed at the Chemical Fibre Mill in Sinuiju.

To meet the growing demands for reed, the State has recently taken new steps for expanding the scale of the project.

The machine builders in the province are sending various types of machines and coastwise transport workers are coming to the help of the construction workers.

During the winter 500 *jongbo* of saline land have been reclaimed and now 780 *jongbo* more are being brought under reed.

Meanwhile, the Amrok area irrigation project which, partly finished, already waters nearly 10,000 *jongbo* of paddy and non-paddy fields, is picking up further momentum with the advent of spring.

Large contingents of construction machines are mobilized in this undertaking.

When completed, the irrigation set-up will water 90,000 *jongbo* of fields in eight counties.

The willows will before long germinate. These girls on a co-op farm greet the tidings of the approaching spring

Photo by Kim Jong Duk

Back in My Home Village

As days go by, one is usually apt to have a faint memory of what happened years ago or totally forget it. Yet I have some things whose meaning I appreciate more distinctly as our life improves and I grow in wisdom.

Father's Joy

A twenty-nine-year-old young man, I still have a vivid memory of my father who was beside himself with joy when we piled 130 straw bags of rice in the autumn of 1946, twenty-one years ago. That was a year of good harvest. My father, who was then 45, took me by the wrist and, keeping step with me who was then only a little child, danced around the pile of rice and taught me a song.

Still a child wanting in sense, I did not know what my father's joy meant, and simply sang following him.

That year, our peasants, who had become the masters of the country thanks to the country's liberation and the masters of land as a result of the land reform, were very happy as they had gathered in a rich harvest. The feeling of joy was sweeping every family and the whole village.

I joined a village children's chorus and walked about the village, singing the "Song of the Land Reform" and the "Song of Building the Country through Industries." The adults, with a happy smile, joined us in singing the songs.

Later when I attained my years of discretion, I came to see why the peasants had then been feeling so happy, singing and dancing.

Trials

In the autumn of 1950 I myself went through severe trials of a class struggle over the ownership of land.

During the temporary retreat of the Korean People's Army in the Korean war, those landlords, who had fled to South Korea under U.S. occupation after the country's liberation in 1945, returned to North Korea and arrested and killed in cold blood the patriots who had established the people's state power and carried out the land reform. They confiscated the patriots' properties and even burned their houses to the ground.

My parents, too, were apprehended by the enemy and I, together with my three brothers and sisters, was expelled from home to shiver with cold by the riverside where a piercing wind was howling.

My father died an early death from the aftereffect of the severe torture by the enemy.

In the pre-liberation days Japanese "Oriental Development Company" and "Shukunosi Farm" as well as big Korean landlords had a monopoly of land in Jaeryong.

My parents tilled the land tenanted from a landlord to earn a livelihood for our seven-member family. They toiled and moiled, but life was hard.

My father, who had been eager to till his own land, was on the rural committee composed of hired farm hands and poor peasants which had brought happiness to us and to distroy our life. I do not forget even for a moment that now in South Korea the enemy, with the backing of the Americans, is watching for a chance to attack us.

I was convinced that the way of avenging my father was to turn my village into a better place to live in and hasten the country's reunification so as to see the peasants of South Korea, too, become the masters of land.

Work in Home Village

In 1954, when I finished middle school, agricultural co-operation started in my village, too.

More than ten poor peasants' families organized themselves into a co-operative farm. The members of the co-operative farm were mostly families of those killed by the enemy during the war and of servicemen. The co-operative farm felt a shortage of male hands.

Along with my childhood friends, I decided to work in my home village. We youngsters filled up the bomb-craters that had damaged the fields which our parents had tended with care. Then we readjusted land, and built irrigation facilities and converted all dry fields into paddies in a matter of two years. Though its material and technical basis was as yet insufficient in the early post-war period, our co-operative farm, managed by the joint efforts of its members, displayed its advantages in its first year.

Later I joined the army and, when discharged from it, I volunteered to work at a mine. I operated a rock drill for some two years. While at the mine, I finished a spare-time mining school and acquired a high grade of skill as a miner.

Brighter Future

When Premier Kim Il Sung's "Theses on the Socialist Agrarian Question in Our Country" was published, I saw in it a brighter future of our countryside. A son of a peasant who fought for land at the cost of his life, I was excited by the prospects outlined in the "Theses."

I renewed the determination I made when leaving middle school.

In the spring of the year before last I returned to my home village. During my absence radical changes had taken place there.

Irrigation channels from a big reservoir supplied water to the fields which had depended on the rainfall for water. Narrow lanes had been widened for tractor traffic. Hovels had given way to modern farm houses.

The villagers welcomed me like their own flesh and blood.

I have worked in my village for two years now with a fresh determination and a new hope. In the years since I returned home alone, we have been supplied with quantities of farm machines and implements by the State and a mechanization workteam has been formed. Much has been done to farm in a more scientific and technical manner.

Agricultural output has increased from year to year. I feel a big pride in the changes that have taken place in my home village.

Looking forward confidently to the brighter future of the countryside, I am devoting myself to turning my village into an enlightened and rich one as indicated in the "Theses."

Jo Yong Il, member of Gosan Co-op Farm, Jaeryong County

KOREAN WOMEN

The March 8th International Women's Day is the day for strengthening the militant solidarity among the peace-loving women and mothers of the world and demonstrating their united strength. On this jubilant occasion, the women of North Korea, first of all, extend most fervent support to the Vietnamese women who are fighting heroically against U.S. aggression.

They are joining the hundreds of millions of women of the world in chanting the slogan: "U.S. imperialists, stop bombing North Vietnam unconditionally and quit South Vietnam at once!"

At the same time, our women extend militant salute to the women in Asia, Africa and Latin America who are fighting for national independence and the social emancipation of women under the banner of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism as well as to the progressive women all over the world.

The Korean women today, freed from all manner of social fetters and with great pride of being the masters of the country, are taking an active part in all spheres of state and social activities, displaying all their talents and wisdom. It has become a thing of the past that they had to lead a sorrowful life for a long time, simply because they were women.

It was only after the liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialist colonial rule that a broad avenue of a new life was opened up before our women. The People's Government proclaimed the Law on the Equality of the Sexes which enabled our women to realize their long-cherished desire. This was an event of great historic significance.

In the days gone by, our women, confined in the home, had no say even in family affairs. But today, many of them are taking part in the affairs of the State. Everywhere in our country today one can usually see those women working as factory directors, co-op farm chairmen, principals or technicians.

Women make up an absolute majority in the fields of light and local industries and public health.

The State fully provides our women with every necessary condition for their social activities.

Day nurseries and kindergartens are set up where women work, and over 1,867,000 children are growing up healthily there at State and social expenses.

Women get equal pay with men for the same work and enjoy the benefits from various special measures for their labour protection.

Last year a new measure was taken by the State to reduce to six hours the working hours for working mothers with many children.

The freedom and happiness enjoyed by the Korean women today were by no means realized without difficulty.

They won them through struggle; they knew how to defend them.

In the grim days of the Japanese imperialist rule, fine women revolutionaries and fighters of Korea, with arms in their hands, fought in the ranks of the anti-Japanese guerrillas organized and led by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Following the country's liberation, our women took an active part in the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and thus made a great contribution to the building of new Korea.

During the Patriotic War of Liberation against the U.S. aggressors (June, 1950-July, 1953), they rose up together with the entire people, fought bravely both on the front and in the rear and firmly defended the country and the precious gains of the revolution. During the hard years of the war, a great number of our women performed ever-lasting meritorious deeds by displaying self-sacrificing spirit and heroism as doctors, nurses, pilots, scouts, signalwomen and guerrillas.

Today, when another high tide is rising on all fronts of socialist construction, our women are vigorously forging ahead shoulder to shoulder with men under the motto "With hammer or sickle in one hand and rifle in the other!"

The women in North Korea never forget their brothers and sisters in South Korea under the tyranny of U.S. imperialism and its stooges, and are fighting to advance the day when they will share their happiness with them.

Another group of the boarding girls enjoy their leisure at their room discussing a book they have read

After the Day's Work Is Over

At 4 p.m. a siren sounds announcing it is time for shift. Female workers stream out of the Pyongyang Textile Mill by the main gate.

Before long the big stream branches off and tributaries flow to the workers' dormitories across the street east of the mill.

The boarders, back from work, still have enough time for study and recreation before they go to bed.

Girls discussing a plan to spend their leisure back in the dormitory

AN EVER-PRESENT IDEA

No sooner had she had a bath than Choe San Ok of weaving shop No. 3 of the weaving plant returned to her room of dormitory No. 1. She sat at the desk and was lost in thought.

This girl must be figuring how much more of cloth she had weaved today than yesterday. Yes, she was. But, more than that, she was thinking of something she had failed to tell her shop head before she left the mill.

A famous multi-loom operator, this girl had been thinking recently of how to take charge of more looms.

The course of making the round of looms she had thought out to this end was again proved to fall 45 seconds short of her estimate in today's test. This was why she could not broach the matter to her shop head. She drew many circles on a sheet of paper and ran a pencil in the space between them to find out a more rational course of making the round of looms.

"Oh my! I've forgotten what an engineer of the mill had told me. She said the current issue of a magazine carried something like what I had thought out!"

She told herself and hurried to the library of the dormitory.

In the reading room she managed to find a vacant seat next to Bae Yong Sil of the yarn twisting shop. The braider greeted San Ok with her eyes and moved aside the voluminous books she had spread all over the reading table to make room for San Ok.

"How does the matter go on?" the weaver whispered in the braider's ear, as she knew that the braider had been studying how to braid thread more efficiently.

"There is a prospect of success, but..." The braider said in a suppressed voice without taking her eyes off the book.

Choe San Ok did not ask her any more. Soon she was also absorbed in reading the magazine she had taken out.

She studies hard to take part in the forthcoming scientific and technical forum in the Mill

EMBROIDERED CUSHION

More than a month was yet to go till trees bud. But pattern designer Kim Jo'ng Ok was making her spring coat of georgette in housework room No. 2 among her mates who were cutting, sewing, embroidering and knitting.

"Hush!" Chun Ja brought her finger to her lips pointing to room No. 1 with her eyes. Out of house work room No. 1 was coming the voice of the instructor teaching beginners of the amateur housework group how to pull out threads of cloth to make a lace.

At this moment three girl spinners entered room No. 2. They soon became the topic of conversation. The spinning plant's Red Worker-Peasant Militia had a ball firing that day.

"Chun Nyo, how many hits have you scored today?" Jo'ng Ok asked a girl of the youth spinning shop.

"How many? I sent all three shots into the heart of the Yankee!" answered Chun Nyo in a tone of full assurance.

They were skilled hands in work and crack shots in shooting. They did not forget even for a moment that the enemies south of the Military Demarcation Line were engrossed in war preparations.

As they were fully prepared mentally and physically their life followed its regular course.

"You're here. I've been to the table-tennis hall to look for you," Bak Chun Ja said.

"I have a favour to ask of you. Will you make a graceful design for an embroidered cushion for me?"

"A couple of phoenixes?"

"Yes, that is what I want."

"For your wedding, probably?"

"No, far from that. I want it just for my grandfather in my home village who will greet the 60th anniversary of his birth. Gum Ja of the reeling shop will soon have a wedding."

"When?" those present there asked her all at once.

TASTES DIFFER

In dining hall No. 2 of the workers' dormitories a feast was going on celebrating the birthdays of two reeling workers. As a rule, each of the boarding workers becomes the hero of such a birthday party once a year. This evening two reeling workers, Mun Jong Ran and Ha Bok Sil living in the same room, were being honoured at the feast. All present were in an unusual gaiety.

In the midst of merriment, senior boarder of the room, returning from the kitchen, told a girl that she was wanted in the club.

"Why, it's time for rehearsal!" Ri Ran Suk rose in a hurry. On that evening an art performance was to be given by the art group of the Pyongyang Textile Mill at the city's Mass Culture Hall. This girl assumed the role of a work-team leader in the poetical drama "Material for Army Uniform."

"By the way, dear sister, I want to taste the honeyed water flavoured with persimmons, gingers and other fruits that you have prepared. That will tell the skill of a member of the group learning cookery." Ran Suk stopped short before reaching the door.

"Taste it when you are back from the performance. I'll set aside your portion. Hurry up, or you'll be late!"

The girl left, elated by these affectionate words of the senior boarder.

Presently in front of the club-house the car sounded the horn signalling its departure for the Culture Hall. Meanwhile, from the lobby on the third floor of the clubhouse wafted melodies and tunes from the instruments and songs of the music lovers, drowning the monotonic hum of the film projector. Every man to his taste, as the saying goes.

AS THE NIGHT ADVANCES

The night was wearing on. Dormitory inmates who had gone to theatres and cinemas or on some business were all back now. A considerable time had passed since reeling worker Ri Ran Suk returned from the Culture Hall and slipped the honeyed water, admiring the skill of the senior boarder. The inmates, in bed, reflected on what happened that day and thought of the next day.

But kitchener Gu Deng Nyo was still staying at her post. Looking toward the door every now and then, she repeated the same words several times already:

"Why hasn't Sun Ok come as yet? Other students of the factory college came back long ago..."

At last creaking of the door came from the hall and light footsteps were heard. It was Soh Sun Ok.

"Oh dear! Don't you feel hungry?" The kitchener hastily laid the table. She was as affectionate as the real mother to her.

"You haven't gone to bed yet!" The printing worker stayed on at the college to discuss with the teacher the outline of a speech she was going to make. She was to take part in a scientific forum to be held shortly at the mill.

They were not the only ones who were still awake. In room No. 201 of dormitory No. 2, dyeing worker Yun Myong Suk was absorbed in writing something.

The road to the mill brought me a dream,
When I, a little girl, was going to school,

With a wrapper under my arm,
Envious of the sisters taking this road.

I would watch them long outside the mill.

Inspiration urged her to go ahead with her pen. Is this a girl poet? She is only a literary youth who has published ten or so pieces. Yet she, too, is a poet like other girls who are poets of their own style, who sing the praises of the joy of labour in their writings.

In a word, life and labour here produce poems and bring up poets.

Son Ryong Sik
Photos by Kim Gwang Su

What mode will they choose for their spring wear?

Music lovers at the Mill's club

They beam with a smile as they have topped their quotas

Facts and Figures

WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 48 per cent of the working people serving in all fields of the national economy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They are paid equally with men for the same work and specially protected by the State in their labour.

MORE THAN 85,000 WOMEN are working as Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly and other organs of state power at all levels.

More than 103,400 of our women are technicians and specialists including doctors and masters of science.

SEVENTY WOMEN HAVE BEEN awarded the title of Hero of the Republic or that of Hero of Labour for their distinguished feats. And about 54,000 women are recipients of various orders and medals and winners of the titles of honour—People's Artiste, Merited Artiste, Merited Artist, Merited Announcer, Merited Stock-breeder, Merited Teacher, Merited Nurse, People's Athlete and Merited Athlete.

IN OUR URBAN AND RURAL districts, there are tens of thousands of day nurseries and kindergartens where children are being taken good care of and brought up at State and social expenses.

A FRIENDLY LETTER

On the occasion of the March 8th International Women's Day, Ri Hwa Sun, production innovator of the Pyongyang Textile Mill, sent to the editorial Board of the Pyongyang Times her letter addressed to a weaver of the Nam Dinh Textile Mill, North Vietnam. We print below her letter at her request.

My Dear Friend Dao Thi Hao,

Some days before the March 8th International Women's Day, I was very glad to hear that you had been awarded the title of Hero of Labour in the industrial field by the National Assembly and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Along with the congratulations of your Vietnamese friends, please accept the militant greetings from us weavers here in Pyongyang.

Dear comrade, two months have gone since I visited the Nam Dinh Textile Mill as a member of the delegation of the Pyongyang Textile Mill, but I feel as if I were still among my comrades-in-arms in Nam Dinh.

During my brief visit to Vietnam, I saw myself the struggle of the heroic Vietnamese people and learned a lot from it.

I was deeply moved by the weavers of your Textile Mill who were redoubling their efforts for higher output with weapons ready by their looms though parts of its buildings were destroyed by the barbarous bombing of the American air pirates.

In particular, I will never forget the encouraging words President Ho Chi Minh gave us at his personal reception: he encouraged us to take charge of more looms in the future.

In N. Vietnam Ri Hwa Sun (centre) with Dao Thi Hao (left)

Back in Korea, I conveyed to the weavers of our Mill the brilliant achievements of the weavers in Nam Dinh and their valiant struggle.

Hearing that the weavers of your Mill overfulfilled by far their production quotas for last year, combating the savage air raids of the Yankees, our comrades rejoiced over their success regarding it as their own, setting up shouts of joy.

Dear Comrade Dao Thi Hao, a few days ago there was another happy event for us. The workers of our Mill had the honour to receive a congratulatory message and silk banner sent jointly by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Presidium of the D.P.R.K. Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet of the Republic in high appreciation of the fine results they achieved in last year's production.

Now in our Mill, a new upsurge is taking place in production and workers are exerting all their efforts to fulfil their assignments with great pride and confidence. Korea-Vietnam friendship machines perform a big part in this.

To turn out more fabrics will conduce to routing the common enemy, the Yankees, and advancing the day of our victory that much.

We are well aware that the U.S. imperialists today are more frantically stepping up their brigandish acts of war against Vietnam.

Comrade Dao, you are by no means alone in your struggle. All the progressive people the world over are standing on your side.

We are working hard to help you more actively.

Comrade Dao Thi Hao, our heroic fellow-fighter, greeting the March 8th International Women's Day, I wish you and other weavers in Nam Dinh and all the women of fighting Vietnam new successes and victories.

With comradely greetings,

Ri Hwa Sun,
Your friend in Pyongyang

Plight of South Korean Women

★ If you visit a quarry in Changsin-dong, Dongdae-mun District, Seoul, you will see a parturient woman in her thirties engaged in stone-cutting.

She is a certain Jo. Before marriage, she served in a bank in Seoul.

After marriage, she became pregnant.

It is natural that a married woman should conceive. But pregnancy brought misfortune upon herself, because she was sacked from the bank for this reason.

This is why she is now working at the quarry as a handy woman.

Such misfortune is not the case with her alone.

Some time ago, five working women including a certain Hong, aged 29, in Hongindong, Songdong District, Seoul, were discharged from a state-operated enterprise on account of pregnancy (South Korean daily **Kyonghyang Shinmun**).

★ The female workers in a silk reeling mill in North Cholla Province are paid a monthly wage of only 2,400 won on an average, though they are engaged in heavy physical toil all day long without any labour protection.

This is a scanty remuneration enough to pay for lunch, to say nothing of clothes and cosmetics characteristic of womanhood.

Speaking of the Samyang Woolen Textile Mill where the workers are said to be well-paid, the starting wage of a hand is only 1,100 won a month and the monthly wage of a skilled hand 3,000-4,000 won though they are driven hard for a whole day.

The female workers, however, are obliged to work tightening their belts because, as South Korean daily **Jonbuk Ilbo** wrote, it is as hard as "plucking a star from the sky" to get a job.

★ In particular, the dependents of the servicemen dispatched to South Vietnam are in desperate straits.

Not long after Jo'ng Jo'ng O, a soldier belonging to the 2nd Company, 103rd Engineer Battalion, "Tiger Unit," was taken away to South Vietnam as U.S. cannon fodder, bailiffs pulled down his thatched mud hut where his seven dependents lived, thus leaving them without a shelter.

Kim Yon I, wife of Jon Jae Yong killed on the South Vietnam battlefield, came up to Seoul in the hope of earning her living after burying the remains of her husband. She was employed at the Daehan Textbook Joint-stock Company as a charwoman. But she was dismissed on the ground that she had absented herself from office a few days for the medical treatment of her posthumous son suffering from pneumonia.

★ "Recently rush-hour traffic was once held up in Dapsipri-dong, Seoul.

It was because more than 100 conductresses had refused to work for six hours in opposition to the search of their bodies the company owner had made every day stripping them almost naked under the pretext of prevention of "disposition." In fact, however, they are subjected to harsh exploitation. They have to cry "All right!" or "Stop!" all day long on the bus from four o'clock in the morning till eleven o'clock in the evening, the time when curfew is imposed. Their monthly income, however, is very precarious ranging from 600 to 1,500 won.

★ Even the lives of women are menaced in South Korea owing to the outrages committed by the U.S. troops there.

On February 19, 21 and 23, in the Dongduchon area of Gyonggi Province alone, U.S. soldiers beat three Korean women including Kim Hui Suk and stabbed them with a knife when these women did not comply with their base demand.

It is too many to enumerate here cases of the two-fold and three-fold exploitation and oppression, infringement upon rights and hard-pressed life, to which women in South Korea today are subjected.

Therefore, even South Korean press is lamenting, describing South Korea as a "place where things utterly absurd are considered matters of common knowledge."

PRESS GAG INTENSIFIED

According to dispatches from Seoul, Pak Jung Hi's "Central Intelligence Bureau" arrested on February 25 four reporters of **Joson Ilbo**, one of the three major daily papers in Seoul.

Prior to the apprehension, the agents of the "Central Intelligence Bureau" are reported to have only said to those pressmen that they "have something to know about items" carried in their daily.

The daily had reported on the coming May "Presidential and National Assembly elections" in South Korea five times from February 19.

The political and public circles of South Korea, the dispatches said, accused the "Central Intelligence Bureau" that this action was "a measure aimed at gagging the press with the approach of the elections."

On February 22, too, a group of members of Pak Jung Hi's ruling "Democratic-Republican Party" beat a reporter of this daily engaged in news coverage.

Propaganda and Realities

— Food Shortage in S. Korean Countryside —

Addressing the "National Assembly," Pak Jung Hi, "President" of the Seoul puppet regime, said: "The plague of spring poverty which has fatalistically plagued our countryside every year has gone out of use once and for all," according to a broadcast of **Radio Jung-ang** from Seoul.

To his regret, however, his averment was refuted the moment it was made public.

Radio Han-guk Munhwa in South Korea exposed the true picture of the matter by saying: "The life of the peasants has gone from bad to worse since 1963." (The year Pak Jung Hi was formally installed in the "Presidency" of the puppet regime). The spokesman of an opposition party in South Korea said, refuting Pak Jung Hi's statement: "It is brazen enough to speak of something like progress when the countryside has gone utterly desolate. It is nothing but a trick to allay the popular feeling on the eve of the elections."

Gangwon Ilbo, a local daily in South Korea, wrote: "In Gangwon Province alone, there are at present 18,094 foodless peasant households, or 7,700 more than in the corresponding period of last year."

This daily quoted the authorities as estimating the foodless peasant households in the province to exceed 100,000 at least by the end of June. (This province has 149,000 peasant households.)

A reporter in South Korea wrote after his recent visit to Cholwon area in Gangwon Province: "This year, too, the peasants here are compelled to desert their land. More and more peasants are abandoning the fertile land they have cultivated laboriously for ten years."

Ri Go'n Chun, a peasant residing in Hwa-ri, Cholwon Township, reaped 47 straw bags of rice from 6,500 *pyong* (more than two hectares) of land last year. But only five straw bags remained after he had paid the loan of grain at high interest and the money he had borrowed as farming funds. He failed to pay irrigation fee and farm tax. And so he offered his land for sale last September. No buyer has turned up. His nine-member family, therefore, is now on the verge of starvation.

Ri Rak Hui, another peasant living in the same village, was seized of his rice harvest as he had failed to pay his debts. And peasant Kim Tae Jun is reported to have disappeared from his village, leaving his deserted house.

Needless to say, these tragic cases are not isolated ones in Gangwon Province alone. The worst famine is sweeping the farm villages in South Chungchong and North Cholla Provinces called granaries of South Korea and many peasant families are abandoning farming, according to news from South Korea.

This is all about the unprecedented "joy" that Pak Jung Hi and his clique are said to have given the peasants in South Korea.

EXPRESSION OF S. KOREAN PEOPLE TODAY

Spring Has Come, But...

Spring, the season of revival of all things, is sure to come round every year. But even in this season the poor in South Korea wear a gloomy expression, without any joy or hope.

A South Korean paper wrote in its recent issue about the plight of the people:

"It is heart-rending that the majority of our compatriots, who have been suffering from poverty, do not have any prospect of ridding themselves of this plight. One feels dejected at the sight of the poor who are constantly feeling uneasy about what would happen the next moment in this political and economically unstable society."

Then the paper evinced the earnest desire for the country's reunification, saying that in addition to the above-mentioned distressful conditions "there are many worries in store for us who have to endure a big tragedy in our life as there still remains the biggest worry that results from the territorial division."

Japan Sabotages

The 1966 "fishery plan" of South Korea, which provided for "modernization" of the South Korean fishery with the fishing boats and facilities from Japan, ended in failure, according to a February 11 broadcast of South Korean Radio Dongyang.

This is one of the consequences of the Pak Jung Hi clique's "humiliating diplomacy" toward Japan.

South Korea was to receive fishing boats and facilities from Japan as part of the "property claim funds" under the so-called "South Korea-Japan Treaty." However, in actuality, Japan had given South Korea less than 17 per cent of the planned amount by the end of last year.

Thus, as a result of the shortage of fund, the original plans failed. Particularly, the "plan for improvement of the basic fishing facilities and equipment," which play the key role in fisheries, remained a paper plan while the "shipbuilding programme and that of introducing Japanese fishing boats" were carried out only by 0.8 per cent.

Japanese publications make it no secret that Japan neglects her "co-operation" from the consideration that the improvement of South Korea's fishing facilities might encroach upon the interests of the Japanese who are now operating with impunity in the waters off South Korea.

This is another instance showing the true nature of the "economic co-operation" of the Japanese militarists.

What Did Goldberg Do in Seoul?

According to dispatches Goldberg, the American ambassador to the United Nations, who is now touring the Far East and Southeast Asia, left for Taiwan, his next destination, on February 28 after his 23-hour-long "visit" to Seoul.

During his short stay in Seoul, he held "talks" twice with Pak Jung Hi and other American puppets in South Korea and inspected "frontline units."

According to well-informed sources, the "talks" were dedicated "mainly to the discussion of the Vietnam question" and "reaffirmed the principles of the Manila Conference on the occasion."

It is already universally known that the "principles of the Manila Conference" represent that the United States in expanding the war of aggression in Vietnam presupposes drawing more of its client countries and their troops in the Vietnam war.

In disregard of the unanimous demand of world public opinion, Washington has started to enter another grave phase in the escalation of the Vietnam war.

Under the circumstances it is Goldberg's basic mission on his current tour of Asia to prepare the American stooges in Asia for the new development.

The "Prime Minister" of the Seoul puppet regime visited Saigon on February 18 and, along with Cao Ky, clamoured about the dispelling of the idea that the Vietnam war is a local war and discussed and made decisions on the concrete matters regarding the dispatch of more puppet troops of South Korea. They also advocated the implementation of the "principles of the Manila Conference."

Goldberg's recent trip to Seoul is, in the last analysis, to give the South Korean puppets a clear understanding of the role to be assigned to them in a bigger diplomatic and military campaign that the United States is going to launch to cope with the new phase in the Vietnam war.

What took an important place in Goldberg's mission was to explain the programme of the White House with regard to the meetings of the SEATO and of the nations participating in the Vietnam war to be held next month and to urge the Seoul placemen to discharge their duties faithfully in the execution of the programme.

At the "talks" they are also reported to have "consulted about the measure for the U.N. debate on the Korean question at the coming 22nd session of the U.N. General Assembly."

After the "talks" Goldberg told newsmen that "the common hope of the United States and South Korea for the United Nations to continue to play its role in the Korean question was reaffirmed."

This is the "reaffirmation" of Washington's vicious intention to continue to make the United Nations play the disgraceful role of shielding U.S. occupation of South Korea and its designs to start another war in Korea.

Goldberg is reported to have done the honour of receiving to the hirelings of Washington called the representatives of the "UNCURK" in Seoul and gave a lengthy address of instructions to them.

But what Goldberg is doing in the course of the current Asian tour has nothing to do with the United Nations. If his present trip has anything to do with the United Nations at all, it will be nothing else than the United States' contempt for and insult to the United Nations.

Goldberg is touring Asian countries to expedite the execution of Johnson's plan for the further escalation of the Vietnam war.

It is but a trick to conceal by hook or by crook his real business from public opinion for Goldberg to show off his official title of "Ambassador to the United Nations" and to refer time and again to the United Nations and "peace talks."

Johnson regards it as reasonable for him to seize every opportunity, big and small, to flout the United Nations. This is proved by the very fact that Johnson has chosen Goldberg for the current Asian tour.

Ri Hyon Ik

Ambassadors' Meeting In Saigon

According to foreign dispatches an ambassadorial-level meeting of the nations involved in the Vietnam war took place in Saigon on February 27.

The basic object of the meeting is said to prepare for a foreign ministers' conference of the nations participating in the Vietnam war to be convened in Washington in April.

The participants in the meeting who assembled allegedly to prepare for the foreign ministers' conference neither drew up the programme nor documents for the forthcoming foreign ministers' conference. It is the business of the Pentagon and the State Department.

What did they do, then?

The communique published after the meeting revealed this undisguisedly.

First, they "reached a unanimity of views that it was necessary to continue to give assistance to South Vietnam." And they announced that "the allies continue to expand operations." Then they declared that "the necessity of continuing military operations has arisen because the peace proposals were rejected."

The meeting was closed by expressing the views that "the wider efforts the allies make, the shorter the period of the war will be."

Needless to say, no one expected that the Saigon meeting would produce any other statement. The ambassadors who met in Saigon, in the last analysis, had been ordered to carry out, and did carry out, two things.

One was to cultivate another opportunity to advertise that the United States has its "allies" in the aggressive war in Vietnam. The other was to create at the present juncture and for the coming "Washington conference" an atmosphere necessary for the execution of the plot hatched by Johnson, Johnson's plot is the programme for the further escalation of the Vietnam war.

It is a nonsensical "self-deception" to name six puppets "allies" and call their mercenary troops "allied forces."

Johnson can neither justify aggression by fallacy nor cover up their difficult position by self-deception.

Hong Rae Hui

LUBKE IN SEOUL:

Welcome in a State Of Emergency

West German President Lubke was reported to have arrived in Seoul on March 2 as scheduled.

Pak Jung Hi proclaimed an "alert A" from March 1 to 6 and mobilized numerous police troops. This war-like mode is a basic step in receiving his "national guest" from West Germany. Besides, he had the number of Seoul citizens to be turned out for welcome dropped to a third as compared with the time of Johnson's visit to Seoul last year, say reports from South Korea.

To welcome someone in a "state of emergency!" What a nonsense! Yet this is a commonplace in South Korea. All the previous cases, too, just as this one, were some sorts of "welcome" organized with government authority, by mobilizing armed police.

Lubke and his party, like Johnson, do not get nervous about this, of course. They seem to have started their planned business upon their arrival.

In his "arrival statement," Lubke raved that Bonn and Seoul are "bound together as a political companion" as they are "striving to achieve national reunification." Then, it is said, he entered into negotiations with Pak Jung Hi for "economic co-operation" between Bonn and Seoul.

Obviously all this is for the execution of a plan premeditated by his American masters, to be more exact, for the implementation of their instructions.

Washington has long been seeking to inveigle the West German and Japanese militarists into execution of its aggressive policies in South Korea and other parts of Asia. Seizing this opportunity, Bonn is thrusting its hand of aggression and pillage deep into South Korea.

To this end, Pak Jung Hi flew to West Germany in 1964 and had confabs with Hitlerite remnants on strengthening the political, economic and military bonds to a full-fledged stage.

He was followed up by former puppet Prime Minister, National Assembly Speaker, Ministers, National Assemblymen and other ranking puppet officials and puppet army brass hats who flew to Bonn under sundry names, while South Korea was visited by West German Bundestag President Gerstenmaier, Ex-Defence Minister Strauss and other bigwigs.

Addressing the South Korean National Assembly in May 1964, Gerstenmaier blared that Bonn would "assist South Korea economically and, when necessary, render co-operation in other spheres to combat communism."

Four months later South Korean puppet Army Chief of Staff flew to Bonn to explore "possibilities of closer co-oppration" between the "ROK army" and the Bundeswehr. In November Ex-Defence Minister Strauss turned up in Seoul and told Pak Jung Hi and other South Korean puppet bosses to "unite in the common struggle against communism." Since then the West German revanchists have received and trained South Korean high-ranking officers and given military-technical "assistance" to South Korea. This year, staff officers of the puppet army headquarters went to Bonn to "inspect Bundeswehr cavalry arm."

The Pak Jung Hi clique and the West German militarists are closely linked with each other in supporting the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam aggression.

When a delegation led by South Korean National Assembly Speaker visited Bonn in May 1965, it discussed matters with West German militarists on helping U.S. imperialists in the war of aggression against the Vietnamese people. Later, Bonn also began sending to South Vietnam personnel of various occupations plus large quantities of war supplies.

The West German militarists are speeding up economic infiltration into South Korea.

The West German capital that has infiltrated into South Korea comes next to that of the U.S. and Japan and it involves all the spheres of the South Korean economy, mainly branches connected with military purposes such as metal, machine, chemical, building material and communications.

Lubke's visit to Seoul will deepen such "relations of friendship and co-operation." From this the world will clearly see how the regenerated Tokyo-Berlin axis will serve U.S. imperialism for its aggressive policy in Asia.

Kim Gun Hyong

Fish Catch Drops to Half

According to a February 27 radio broadcast from Seoul, the fish catch of South Korea has dropped to half its former haul since the conclusion of the "South Korea-Japan Fishery Agreement."

The broadcast quoting the figures summed up by South Korea's "Fisheries Centre" said that the fish catch in the sea off the south coast including Go'mun-do and Hong-do Islands in South Cholla Province was 2,156 tons in all last year, as against 4,209 tons in 1965, the year before the conclusion of the "South Korea-Japan Fishery Agreement."

The said broadcast added that this was attributable to the fact that the South Korean fishing vessels, equipped with primitive fishing tackle could not cope with the Japanese fishing fleet engaged in arbitrary fishing operations in the territorial waters of South Korea.

IN JAPAN

Right: **Japanese demonstrators carrying a placard with the slogan "America, get out of Japan, Asia and Vietnam!"**

Below: **Japanese people marching through the streets shouting the slogan "Go out Yankee from Asia!"**

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

Choe Hak Sin: Hero. A pastor who has believed in Christianity for four decades.

Suk Gyong: Choe Hak Sin's wife

Choe So'ng Gun: Choe Hak Sin's son and an intelligence officer of the South Korean puppet army

Choe So'ng Ok: Choe Hak Sin's eldest daughter

Choe So'ng Hui: Choe Hak Sin's second daughter

At the Sketch Exhibition

"Look here, my brother has appeared in the paper"

by Ri Chun Hui

Film Scenario

CHOE HAK SIN'S FAMILY

"CHOE HAK SIN's Family" produced by the National Feature Film Studio (screenplay by Back In Jun, direction by Merited Artiste O Byong Che, camera by Merited Artiste Bak Byong Chu) is very popular among the audiences.

This film impressively shows the lot of Choe Hak Sin who has believed in the United States as his "friend" and of his family. Our newspaper gives the summarized version of its screenplay in serial form.—Ed.

The late autumn of 1950.

A coastal town in the northwestern part of Korea devastated by bombing.

The town is still wrapped in darkness and a thick fog hangs low over it. The roar of the waves is heard. A church stands on a hill. People have been building barricades in every corner of the street all night long. They quietly listen to the distant boom of guns.

So'k Jae: It's already six o'clock!

Peasant I: Already?

So'k Jae: Sure it is.

Through a pall of thick fog a man slowly walks along a lane leading to the hill. He is **Choe Hak Sin.**

In the dimly-lit church.

A dim light is streaming into the church through an arched window of stained glass. There **pastor Choe Hak Sin,** down on his knees, is saying his prayers. **Meanwhile, men** in different dresses and carrying different types of rifles on their shoulders, who appear to be workers, peasants, office workers and students, are going to the front.

So'ng Hui, her friend Gyong Suk and others in college uniform are giving rice-balls wrapped in paper to these men going to the front.

So'ng Hui: My best wishes for your gallantry in action!

In the opposite direction of these men determined to fight to the end, evacuating people from other districts are streaming into the town.

A middle-aged woman is out on the roadside, apparently looking for someone among the evacuees. She is Suk Gyong, **pastor Choe's wife.**

At the entrance to the church **Yun So'k Jae** peeps into the church to see who is there. He is indecisive whether to enter the church or not when steps are heard from within. Choe Hak Sin slowly walks out of the gloom of the church. The worn-out floor squeaks at every step, the sound echoing through the vacant church.

So'k Jae: Good morning, sir.

Hak Sin: Good morning. How are you? It's a long time since I saw you last. (Keeps shaking So'k Jae by the hand). You've been absent from church these days. And how is that you're here today?

So'k Jae: Why, yes... (Feeling awkward and reverent with his hands in Hak Sin's). I've come once in a while, sir. My sons, you know, they say I must stay away.

Hak Sin: Church is not the only place where we can believe in Him, is it?

So'k Jae: But, I'd been a bell ringer at this church for four decades, hadn't I?

Hak Sin: That's right. The tower and bell bear your fingermarks.

So'k Jae: Nevertheless, I feel my belief in Him is steadily declining these days. And I don't know why. My sons say it's all superstition to believe in Him.

Hak Sin: People learning modern sciences may not believe that God really exists.

So'k Jae: What, then, do they believe in?

Hak Sin: After all they believe in themselves, I should say. I mean, believe in one's own mind.

So'k Jae:...

So'k Jae is listening to what is vague to him.

The bell in the towering belfry looks as if keeping its mouth wide open. Far off, artillery rumbles.

At Choe Hak Sin's house at the foot of the hill.

A zelkova tree stands in the garden. A young couple carrying knapsacks on their backs and trunks in their hands who appear to be on their way of evacuation, shuffle into the house. They are So'ng Ok, Hak Sin's eldest daughter and her husband Yun Sik.

So'ng Ok: Mother! So'ng Hui!

The house is vacant.

So'ng Ok: Where have they gone? Have they already evacuated northward?

So'ng Hui and her friend Gyong Suk are talking on the shore looking on the town.

So'ng Hui: I feel uncomfortable at the thought of leaving all this behind.

Gyong Suk: We will soon return, I'm sure, So'ng Hui, get yourself ready and wait for me. I'll drop in at your's.

So'ng Hui: Certainly. Be sure to come. I'll wait for you.

Choe Hak Sin, back from church, is reading something in his study. A five-foot wall clock hangs on the wall of the study. Its big pendulum slowly swings, its ticking echoing through the room.

On the wall is still hanging a photograph of Choe Hak Sin in his thirties posed along with American missionary Richard garbed in Korean dress. Bookshelves are lined with volumes. On the top shelf stands the sculpture of Laocoön and his sons making desperate efforts to free themselves from the sea serpents.

In a deep armchair, Choe Hak Sin keeps reading.

He turns the pages of the book. Only the clock ticks away in the quiet study.

(To be continued)

Bak Yong Su: So'ng Hui's sweetheart, and a soldier of the Korean People's Army

Yun So'k Jae: A man who has served the church as a bell ringer for 40 years

Richard: An American missionary and a secret agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency

Kingster: An American intelligence officer

Drawings by Rim Byong Sam

SHORT STORY

THE TALE OF HOH SAENG

Bak Ji Won

1

Hoh Saeng (Hoh is surname. Saeng means aspirant of scholar) lived at the foot of Nam-san (Mountain) in Seoul, in a two-room straw thatched house with a brushwood gate standing in an exposed position where a straight lane ends, by an old apricot tree that was overlooking a well.

He had been devoting himself to academic pursuits and his wife had been doing needlework for the neighbours to earn a scanty living of the family.

One day the woman, hunger-stricken, tearfully asked her husband: "What's the use of your reading books since you've not taken the higher civil service examination?"

"I've not yet finished my studies," replied Hoh Saeng with a smile.

"Then what about taking up an artisan's job?"

"I'm sorry I haven't learned any such trades."

"Then try your hand at business."

"Oh, what a pity! Where can I get the fund to go into business? There is no help for it."

"If this 'there is no help for it' of yours all that you've learned to say by studying day and night?" the wife said losing her temper.

"What a pity! My original resolve was to spend ten years on my studies. But this is only the seventh year."

Hoh Saeng hit upon an idea. He laid aside the book, went out through the brushwood gate to the main street of the town.

He accosted the passers-by asking them who the richest was in the town. When he learned Mr. Byon was the richest, he called on him at his home.

2

After saying words of greetings, Hoh Saeng plunged soon into the business he had come for.

"I have a plan to try my hand at something that will cost me money. I'll be happy if you'll be so kind as to lend me 10,000 *ryang*."

"Certainly! You shall have the money," said Mr. Byon without hesitation and instructed the steward to give the visitor 10,000 *ryang*.

No sooner had Hoh Saeng gone out than one of those around Mr. Byon asked him, wondering if he had gone out of his wits: "Why did you not even ask his name and address when handing out a big sum of 10,000 *ryang* to that strange fellow who looks no better than a beggar?"

"Well, I'll tell you why. A man asking the favour of others usually takes much pains to present an appearance of a reliable one, but he is liable to reveal a servile spirit. But the visitor, though shabbily clothed, was holding up his head before me without any air of flattery. I saw in his eyes his resolve. The undertaking he was about to try his hand at must, I believe, be a big one. His looks told he was a man having a confidence in his own capacity of realizing his ambition. I myself want to test him — to see whether he is a man of that calibre. As I had decided to comply with his request, I didn't see it necessary to ask his name."

Hoh Saeng, with 10,000 *ryang* in his hands, travelled southward instead of going home. He came to Anseong, a town from which begin three trunk highways running southward, and started business.

3

He bought up all the dates, chestnuts, pears, persimmons and oranges in the town paying twice as much as the then market prices. This subsequently caused a cry for fruits among the townsfolk who had to hold feasts and rites. Those merchants who had demanded from Hoh Saeng twice the market prices for their fruits, now came to him and implored him to sell the fruits at prices ten times higher.

Having gained quick riches, Hoh Saeng now purchased knives, hoes, hemp cloth, silks and cotton cloth and went to the Cheju Island, where he bought up all the horsehair and mane, predicting that in a few years' time there would be no hat on sale. In those days, horsehair and mane were the main raw materials for hats in Korea. This hoarding brought him another fortune. Thus his riches increased ten times.

Considering he had gained means enough to realize his ambition, one day Hoh Saeng went to the seaside and asked an old seaman if he happened to know about any deserted island suitable for human habitation.

"Yes, there is such an island. Years ago I was cast away on the coast of a deserted island after my ship had drifted for three days in a storm. There on that island flowers bloomed, trees grew, fruits riped, deers roamed about in flocks and fish were not frightened at the sight of men."

Hoh Saeng, accompanied by the seaman, went to the island for inspection.

In those days, in Hyesan in southwest Korea there was a community of thousands of people called "thieves" by the government officials of the nobility class.

People from different provinces, they were united by a common grudge against the government officials of the *ryangban* (nobility) class who had deprived them of their land. The government attempted to wipe them out by sending troops. But the troops suffered a shameful defeat each time at the hands of the settlers, who were fighting in defiance of sacrifice.

Hoh Saeng had a good knowledge of the community of these people. He found it all by himself and had a talk with people there.

"Are you married?"

"No, we're single."

"Do you have farm land to plough?"

"We would've living this way if we're married and had land to cultivate."

"Well, why, then, do you not get married, build houses, buy draft cattle and follow the plough? Then you won't be called 'thieves' by the nobility class, you will have your own families and live a good life."

"What a sweet tongue you have! We would be very happy if we could live that way. But we don't have money."

"I'll provide you with money. Come to the seashore tomorrow. There will be boats flying red flags there. You may take as much money as you want from the boats."

The "thieves" sneered, regarding Hoh Saeng as a man out of his minds.

On the following day, they went to the shore, believing that they would certainly be fooled.

4

But, to their great surprise, there was Hoh Saeng with 300,000 *ryang* aboard his boats. They lined up and bowed.

"We'll obey your order, Sir."

"Take as much as you can."

They could hardly carry with them more than 100 *ryang* each. (The currency in feudal Korea was round, heavy metallic one —Ed.) With a smile, Hoh Saeng said to them:

"Take 100 *ryang* each. Go and get married and buy cattle. I'll be here until you come back."

The "thieves" went away, leaving words of promise.

Meanwhile, Hoh Saeng procured provisions enough to last 2,000 persons a year while the "thieves" were away. They came back as they had promised. Hoh Saeng carried them aboard his ships to the deserted island. The new settlers on the island felled trees, built houses with timber and erected bamboo fences. The soil hitherto uncultivated was fertile. It yielded a rich crop with a stalk bearing nine ears. In the first year of the farming, they gathered crops enough to last them three years. The surplus crops they shipped to Nagasaki, Japan, for sale. The crops were readily sold as the Japanese province, with 310,000 households, was then suffering a food shortage as a result of a lean year. They earned one million *ryang* in silver.

Hoh Saeng saw to it that the islanders provided themselves with necessary furniture.

"I've had a go at it!" Hoh Saeng spoke to himself, feeling relieved.

5

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Drawn by Son Chang-Hak

(To be concluded)

Bak Ji Won and Tale of Hoh Saeng

March 5 this year is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Bak Ji Won, Bak Yon Am by pseudonym. A man who was active from the late 18th century to the early 19th century (December 10, 1805), he was an ardent patriot, an encyclopaedic scholar and a realistic writer of talent. His writings trenchantly criticized the inconsistency of the then feudal society and are imbued with the progressive idea for the transformation of an obsolete system.

ARDENT PATRIOT

Ardent patriotism of holding dear our country's natural beauty, history and culture and valuing our people's beautiful customs and manners runs through Bak Ji Won's writings.

He stressed that when pursuing learning one should not indulge only in academic theories but study what are beneficial to the practical life, especially himself, above all, with the realities of his own country and countrymate, before anything else to the historical facts.

He resolutely fought against big-power chauvinism and flunkeyism towards the great powers.

Neither his ideas could be realized nor the great number of his writings could be made a real treasure of the people in his days. His manuscripts had long remained unpublished and had been handed down in transcribed form, because of the progressive ideas advocated in them. Publication of his writings started between the late 19th century and the early 20th century.

INHERITANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The study and introduction of his works were hampered when Korea was under Japanese colonial rule. And in South Korea today his works are distorted and debased by the U.S. imperialists and their puppets who are pursuing the policy of wiping out the Korean national culture.

But in North Korea, after the 1945 liberation his writings have been published in selections or in separate books and are popular with the reading public, thanks to the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on taking over and carrying forward the nation's cultural heritage.

Studies have been made of his literary works, his ideas on literature, philosophy, economics and natural science. And many writings about the results of these studies have been published.

TALE OF HOH SAENG

Tale of Hoh Saeng, whose abridged version appears in this issue of our paper, is contained in a collection of his writings in various genres.

In this collection Bak Ji Won set out extensively and interestingly his exhaustive knowledge and progressive ideas and views on politics, economics, history, philosophy, literature, astronomy, geography, medicine, customs, social system and other subjects covering nearly all the spheres of social life. He wrote his works in various genres—travel notes, diary, essay, political essay, commentary and novel.

"We've Learnt Much"

Co-op Farm Art Group Instructors Leaving a Short Course Say

Every year in the slack farming season, a short course is arranged to train instructors for peasant amateur art groups.

On March 1, another batch of trainees finished a short course run by the Pyongyang Mass Culture Hall.

130 amateur art group instructors from co-op farms in the suburbs of Pyongyang took the course of two months and a half, according to the report on the studies of the trainees made at the graduation ceremony. Enrolled in the classes for literature, drama, music and dancing according to their specialities, they made theoretical study of their respective subjects in combination with practice as provided for in the curricula.

All the expenses incurred in the training, travelling and lodging expenses of the trainees included, were borne by the State.

Similar training courses are also organized simultaneously in provinces.

When leaving for their co-op farms after they have gone through the short course, the trainees express their resolve to show a fine example in the endeavours for increased grain production this year and raise their role in the amateur art activities.

Below are what some of them said when they were interviewed.

YUN JI HYON of the literature class, member of the Gangnam Agricultural Co-op Farm:

"I have been working in the countryside since I finished higher technical school. On my co-op farm a drama group functions actively. It requires many literary works every year. Our literature group writes plays, poems and comic stories chiefly for this drama group.

"As for me, my skill was not enough to satisfy my desire. The training at the short course, however, has enabled me to make up to some extent what I lacked. I've learnt a great deal by attending the seminars on literary theories and creation.

"Eighteen persons studied in my class. While taking the short course we produced altogether about 20-30 literary works with the help of the instructors. Some of them have been put on the stage or gone to the press."

GONG PIL JU of the drama class, member of the Ryongbong Co-op Farm, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang:

"My co-op farm has music, dancing, instrumental music and drama groups consisting of more than 70 amateur artists. And each workteam has its own art group. I am deputy leader of the *ri* (the lowest administrative unit) amateur art group.

"It is my duty to organize inter-workteam art contests and combined art performances and give guidance in various fields of amateur art group activities. Many-sided skills are required for me to perform this duty. I've already attended this sort of short course twice. The study of dramatic theories and practical training have enabled me to solve many problems.

"Our class also produced one act plays 'A Genuine Desire' and 'The First Snow' and dramatic sketches which were put on the stage. I myself wrote a dramatic sketch 'Two Elderly Men.'"

KIM YONG JA of the dancing class, member of the Ryongsang Co-op Farm, Sangwon County:

"I am 32 years old and have two children. Yet I'm not disposed to leave the amateur art group. Like on other co-op farms, we have many women like me in the amateur art group of my co-op farm.

"I have been teaching the dancing group for five years. This time, I've learnt a great deal about new rhythmic forms and deepened my theoretical knowledge of dance.

"With the help of the instructors I've completed several choreographic plans I elaborated while working."

BAK YONG SONG of the music class, member of the Richon Co-op Farm, Sungho District, Pyongyang:

"This is my second attendance at such a training course. My co-op farm has an orchestra band. It entered a contest last year which was aired over the city's broadcasting network, and won a prize.

"In the army, I was a member of a regimental military band. Therefore, I have some knowledge of wind instruments.

"Attending the short course, I've learnt how to play such national instruments as *gayagum*, *ajaeng* and *saenap*.

"I've also acquired the basic knowledge of how to form a national instrument orchestra.

"Please come to my co-op farm one year later, and you will hear the clear sound of *saenap* everywhere."

Bak Sang Man

A scene from "Armymen and Girls," a group dance produced by the trainees of the dancing class

Korean Women's Union Delegation Arrives in Conakry

A Korean Women's Union delegation led by Choe Gum Ja, Vice-Chairman of the C.C. of the Democratic Women's Union of Korea, arrived in Conakry on February 25 by air to pay a visit to the Republic of Guinea. **(KCNA)**

Korean Youth League Cables Uganda Youth Organization

Greeting the Day of Youth of Uganda, the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea sent a telegram on March 8 to the National Union of Youth Organisations of Uganda.

Extending warm congratulations and salute to the members of the National Union of Youth Organisations on their red-letter day, the telegram expressed the conviction that the friendly relations between the youths of the two countries would develop in the common struggle against imperialism.

It wished the Ugandan youth great success in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for safeguarding national independence.

Trainees of the music class playing accordion

Greetings to Literature and Arts Federation of Vietnam

The Central Committee of the General Federation of Literary and Art Unions of Korea sent a telegram to the Literature and Arts Federation of Vietnam greeting the tenth anniversary of its founding.

It expressed the conviction that the Vietnamese people will certainly emerge victorious in their just war of resistance against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation and wished the Vietnamese writers and artists greater success in the creation of revolutionary, militant literature and arts.

ART STAGE OF STEEL WORKERS

A scene of a group dance accompanied by dynamic music. Teeming work is in high gear before the glowing furnace. The work-team leader in goggles orders to open the mouth of the furnace. Sparks fly and a golden cascade pours out.

Thunderous applause bursts forth at the club of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Works where an amateur art group contest among workshops is now going on.

The group dance "Molten Iron, Pour Out!" staged by the workers of the steel shop vividly portrayed in dance language the fresh success the furnacemen of the works have scored in shortening the time of a heat since they received the congratulatory message from the Party and Government some time ago.

Furnaceman Gwak Chan Hwan, who choreographed the dance, told this reporter: "I simply tried to depict our life. But the pulsating reality was beyond my creative power. It is not exaggeration to say that the labour of the furnacemen is in itself music, rhythm and joy."

Diverse are the numbers presented on the stage—songs, dances, sketches, comic story-telling, dance dramas, etc.

Most popular at the contest are the dance drama "They Did Not Succumb" dealing with the steel workers who heroically saved a four thousand-h.p. fan of the works from enemy's bombing at the time of the Patriotic War of Liberation and group dance "Crack Shots" portraying the women anti-aircraft unit of the red militia who are afire with the determination to defend their metallurgical centre firmly, turning it into an impregnable fortress.

Most of the performers at the contest are labour innovators.

Kim An Su, leader of the coking-battery shop, is a popular worker-artist. He is also a first-rate conductor of the orchestra of the works.

The chorus "Molten Iron" composed by repair worker Choe Su Ho is in praise of the worthy life of furnacemen.

Literary group members have produced a number of poems, novels, plays and scenarios. The scenario "Echo of the Age" by laboratory worker Kim Jo'ng Ho has as its theme innovations in the production of special steel.

Kim Myong Op

1,500th Machine Tool Exported to Czechoslovakia

The 1,500th machine tool to be exported by our country to the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia was delivered recently to the Czechoslovak side.

In this connection a gathering was held at the Huichon Machine Tool Factory, which is exporting machine tools to Czechoslovakia under a trade agreement between the two countries.

Present at the gathering were Kim Dong Han, a department director of the Korean Machine Export and Import Corporation, as well as managerial staff of the factory.

N. Dietl, representative of the STRO Import Company of Czechoslovakia, and others were invited to the gathering.

Kim Dong Han and N. Dietl exchanged speeches on the occasion.

SI-250 lathe, one of Korea's export items

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